

Fire Safety For Places of Worship

No. 1: Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms

A study found smoke alarms were not present in 65% of church fires. Smoke Alarms give you an early warning, increasing your chance of escaping a fire. Install smoke alarms on each level. **Test smoke alarms once a month.** Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendation on battery replacement.



Exits and directional signs should be Illuminated and tested monthly. Functioning exit and emergency lighting aid in providing direction and

illumination of the path of egress.



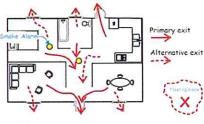
Electrical fires are often traced to old wiring, overloaded circuits, misused extension cords, and faulty electrical appliances.

- Turn -off Electrical appliances left on for long periods of time can malfunction or overheat. Turn appliances off or unplug them when not in use.
- Maintain a 3 foot clearance around circuit breakers, transformers, and electrical panels.
- Check the load If your power goes out often, outlets spark, the lights in your home flicker, or make noise, hire a <u>certified</u> electrician.



Escape

Make sure you have an emergency plan in place and practice annually.



Plan two ways out of every room. Also, select a safe meeting place outside away from the burning building where you can account for members. Once you get out stay out! Never go

No. 4: Heating Units

back into a burning building.

Combustibles should never be stored in a heating or electrical room. Have your heating unit inspected by a licensed and insured contractor at least annually.



No. 6 Candles

Candles should never be left unattended. Keep in mind candles are open flames!

SFD recommends the following:

- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easy.
- Never use around oxygen cylinders.
- Use flashlights for power outage.
- Never burn candles near anything that might catch fire.





A public service annoucement from the Shreveport Fire Department.



